OCIL 20941 BATTLING BUNYAN

By Jefferson Moffit.

THE STORY

For seventeen years Fate had suffed young Mr. Aiken Bunyan from pillar to post and then dropped him, laughing, into the grit and grime of Peterson's garage in the town of Midland. The Kid had asked for a job, he wanted to start at the bottom and work his way up to a partnership with the easy-going proprietor, and thus we find him, his back on the floor, his face, greased stained but grinning, his hands exploring the steel belly of a dilapidated motor car while his dreams soared to the loftyheights where a blazing sign read: "BUNYAN AND PETERSON -- Garage De Lux".

But back of this towering ambition was a reason. A reason five feet three in height, named Molly Costigan, with eyes as blue as the lakes of her father's Killarney that twinkled when she rang up sales on the cash register of Peterson's gas emporium. And then, just as the wheels were beginning to turn smoothly for the Kid, Fate dropped a monkey-wrench into the machinery. Johnny Prentiss, recently crowned lightweight champion on a cross country recreation trip, stopped in Midland for gas, cast interested eyes on Molly and figured to add her to his list of conquests.

The Kid takes umbrage at the attitude of the champ and starts a battle with him. The champ wallops the kid and departs, but the kid starts training and gets a chance at the local boxing clubs to get in the preliminaries and becomes quite a popular boy because of his burlesque style.

Fate is kind and when the champ does come back to town the kid gets a chance for a match at two hundred a round. The fight takes place and though the kid is game and lasts four rounds he is no match for the clever opponent. When the fight is stopped, the kid, battered and bruised, seeks his dressing room. Molly, present at the fight, seeks the kid - and by chance gets into the champ's dressing room and when he attempts to force his attentions on her her cry for the kid brings him to the rescue. This time it is a real fight and the kid comes out the victor, literally making the champ a fit subject for a hospital. The kid's boss, delighted at the outcome, secures the full amount of money from the fight promotor, takes the kid into partnership - and Molly, won by the kid's battle in her behalf, is nothing loath to count him as first and last on her list of admirers.

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